

Consolidate Heavy-handed and Outdated Programs (CHOP) Act H.R. 4295

Why should the Energy Department and the EPA be merged?

The Government Accountability Office has made clear that significant savings can be achieved through the consolidation of duplicative or fractured programs in the federal government. The goal of this legislation is twofold: to achieve cost savings by combining duplicative functions, and to improve the administration of our country's energy and environmental policies by ensuring a coordinated approach.

Summary

This bill would consolidate the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency into a new, single agency called the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE).

Under DOEE, duplicative support and administrative (legislative affairs, public affairs, human resources) offices are combined, but the core functions of each agency are maintained to ensure the protection of public and environmental safety and a continued commitment to investing in diverse and reliable energy resources. The bill also takes the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office and the Office of Management and Budget to eliminate or reduce duplicative or ineffective programs.

- This bill does not make any changes to our nation's environmental or energy policies. It simply consolidates duplicative functions and enacts GAO and OMB recommendations.

H.R. 4295 also directs the Secretary of the DOEE to report back to Congress annually on additional programs or initiatives that could be reduced or eliminated to provide greater efficiencies in government.

Estimated Savings

By consolidating offices and reducing or eliminating programs identified by GAO, OMB, and the President's Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 budget requests, this bill could reduce unnecessary spending by upwards of \$5.3 billion.

- Consolidates 20 offices into 8 offices.
- Eliminates 4 offices.
- Eliminates or reduces 24 programs or initiatives.

House Companion to S. 892

H.R. 4295 is an expanded House companion to Senator Richard Burr's S. 892. Like, S. 892, our bill consolidates DOE and EPA to form a single agency, cuts duplicative functions, and enacts GAO and OMB recommendations. While S.892 reduces and terminates programs identified in the President's FY 2012 budget request we have expanded upon this effort to also include the President's FY 2013 request. This effort yields an additional \$2 billion in taxpayer savings.

In the Senate, S. 892 is supported by: Sen. Richard Burr, Sen. John Barrasso, Sen. Roy Blunt, Sen. John Boozman, Sen. Daniel Coats, Sen. Tom Coburn, Sen. Thad Cochran, Sen. Jim DeMint, Sen. Michael Enzi, Sen. Orrin Hatch, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Sen. Ron Johnson, Sen. Mike Lee, Sen. John McCain, Sen. Richard Shelby, Sen. John Thune, Sen. Pat Toomey, and Sen. David Vitter.